



galerie **leonard**
& bina
ellen
art gallery

LEONARD & BINA ELLEN ART GALLERY

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

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HIGHLIGHTS

Exhibitions and research

Research is very much at the heart of curatorial activity today. The LBEAG has come to be recognized for presenting projects that are experimental but also that focus on practices or currents that have been ignored or forgotten or have not received the recognition they deserve. This year two exhibitions stood out in this respect, namely *Raymond Gervais 3 x 1* a coproduction with VOX in Montreal. Curated by Nicole Gingras it is the first retrospective look at the work of the artist Raymond Gervais. Another important event was the presentation of the much-lauded exhibition *Traffic: Conceptual Art in Canada 1965-1980*. On tour since the fall of 2010 and a collaboration both curatorially and organizationally with Canadian museums and art galleries it was presented in two parts at the Gallery between January and April of this year. The gallery produced its first vitrine project – *Parade* – during the summer of 2011.

50th Anniversary

A series of events are scheduled throughout the year to celebrate the Gallery's 50th anniversary. Organized by Mélanie Rainville, curator of the collection *SIGHTINGS* is an ongoing off site project that is receiving rave reviews. Consisting of a portable white cube specially constructed by the Gallery and placed on the Metro level of the EV Building it has become a draw for the public that passes through introducing the Gallery for the first time to many of them. *Interactions* the exhibition that will feature some works from our collection will open in late August. The 50th anniversary also marks the 20th anniversary of the renaming of the Gallery as the Ellen Art Gallery.

Off site activities

The gallery was active producing off-site projects that drew wide and different publics notably the lecture by the co-founder of Group Material Julie Ault; the lecture by Nikita Choi the director of the Times Museum in Guangzhou, China; the panel discussion bringing together from across Canada the curator of *Traffic: Conceptual Art in Canada 1965-1980*; and the de/programming urban walks in the neighborhood by two urban activities.

Communications/ promotion

The gallery is reaching out to an ever-broader audience. More than 14,000 copies of its seasonal printed program were distributed throughout Montreal, the province and Canada. Facebook and Twitter activities have considerably increased during the year. The Gallery is also featured in the new Art Actuel Centre Ville app available through iTunes, which lists contemporary art galleries downtown in Montreal.

Gallery recognition

Two exhibitions produced in 2010-11 were nominated in the category Best Exhibition of the Year at the first *Gala des arts visuels* held last December. As well, both *Traffic* and *Kent Monkman. My Treaty is With the Crown* (produced in 2011) were designated Top Picks of *Canadian Art* magazine for 2011.

REPORT ON EXHIBITIONS, PUBLIC PROGRAMS, COLLECTION ACTIVITY, PUBLICATIONS, FUNDING AND FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

EXHIBITIONS (5)

Four out of five exhibitions were coproduced with other institutions or organizations. See accompanying document: *PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITIES 2011-2011*

This year, the Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery has co-produced the majority of its exhibitions thus further developing its partnerships (with Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal, VOX, centre contemporain de l'image and the Vancouver Art Gallery, The Alberta Art Gallery, the Justina Barnicke Gallery (U of T) and Halifax Ink). All of our exhibitions were major endeavors that required extensive logistical, curatorial and promotional efforts starting with *Jesper Just. Nomad's in One's Own Mind*, then *Raymond Gervais 3 x 1*. The breadth and complexity of the exhibition *Traffic: Conceptual Art in Canada 1965-1980*, lead to the Gallery presenting *Traffic* in two successive parts. This important exhibition occupied the whole of our 2012 winter season. Highest attendance was noted for *Jesper Just: Nomad in One's Mind* (2100) and for *Traffic Part 1: Montréal and Toronto* (3200).

7 September – 8 October 2011

JESPER JUST: NOMAD IN ONE'S OWN MIND

Curator: Anne-Marie Ninacs

Produced in collaboration with Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal

Publication

1 November – 10 December 2011

RAYMOND GERVAIS 3 X1

Curator: Nicole Gingras

Coproduced by the LBEAG and VOX, Contemporary Image Center

Publication

14 January – 25 February 2012

TRAFFIC: CONCEPTUAL ART IN CANADA 1965-1980, PART 1

Montreal, Toronto, Guelph, London

Curators: Michèle Thériault and Vincent Bonin (Montreal), Barbara Fischer (Toronto, London, Guelph)

Co-produced with the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Alberta Art Gallery, Halifax Ink and the Vancouver Art Gallery
Forthcoming co publication
Contextual publication *Actions that Speak / Actions parlantes*

17 March – 28 April 2012

TRAFFIC: CONCEPTUAL ART IN CANADA 1965-1980, PART 2

Halifax, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver

Curators: Jayne Wark (Halifax), Catherine Crowston (the Parities + the Arctic) and Grant Arnold (Vancouver)

17 May – 16 June 2012

IGNITION

Velibor Bozovic, Marie-Pier Breton, Chun Hua Catherine Dong, Joanne Joe Yan Hui, Jenna Dawn Maclellan, Wren Noble, James Douglas with Barry Doupé
Projects selected by Véronique Leblanc and Michèle Thériault

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

(See accompanying document *PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITIES 2011-2012* for a full description of activities)

The **Frederick and Mary Kay Lowy Art Education Fund** continues to provide valued support that is essential to both maintaining and expanding our educational and public programs. The 2010-2011 academic year has been very active with numerous activities programmed by the Gallery, in addition to our Guided Group Tours and Walk-in Tours. Activities this year included: artist and curator conversations, tours and lectures; film screenings in collaboration with Cinema Politica; a series of four very popular Wednesday night lectures by a sociologist, a historian and two art historians during *Traffic* that sought to contextualise the Montreal of the 1960s and 1970s. A round table discussion with the curators of *Traffic* and single lecture events featuring important figures of the international art world: Julie Ault and Nikita Choi.

Dissemination Tools

The Gallery continued to offer the very successful *Pistes de réflexion* and *Ways of Thinking*. Five were produced this year to accompany each of our exhibitions. Available in both French and English in web-based and printed formats. They are part of a documentation database of particular interest to students, teachers and researchers interested in the Gallery's exhibition program. It should be noted that the gallery's web site has received praise by various researchers and teachers for its archiving features and the extensive documentation it offers.

Orientation

In September, the Gallery participated again in Orientation events organized by the Faculty of Fine Arts to welcome new and returning students. This year all efforts were directed at one event, the *Montreal Artist Run Center Rendez Vous 2011*, which for the first time took place at the Gallery. A wine and cheese coupled with kiosks bringing together all the important artist run centers in Montreal was a big success. Because it took place at the Gallery during the exhibition of Jesper Just it provided an impressive introduction to the Gallery for students many of which volunteered to work for us after the event.

Open House

In late October, the Gallery participated in Concordia University's Open House. In order to provide prospective students with an overview of what the Gallery has to offer them.

Internships and volunteers

- A new curatorial internship program for credit was launched in January in partnership with the Graduate program in Art History. Marie-France Daigneault-Bouchard was the first intern. The internship will be recurring every year.
- An increasing number of volunteers proposed their services to the Gallery and worked at various promotional activities.

COLLECTION

2012 marks the 50th anniversary of the collection and it will be features throughout the year in *SIGHTINGS* and in the 2012-13 opening exhibition *INTERACTIONS*.

Online exhibition

In January to mark its 50th anniversary, the Gallery launched its first online exhibition (in both English and French) that is collection based and pedagogically oriented. Based on the exhibition *Collecting. The Inflections of a Practice* that took place in January 2010. It was designed by Uniform and is being used by students of both CEGEPS and universities to learn about collecting issues.

Loans

This year 8 works were loaned from our collection to the Musée des beaux-art de Sherbrooke, the Musée d'art contemporain for La Triennale québécoise and to Optica, centre d'art contemporain.

Public displays

The three large Gerald Gladstone sculptures from its collection were finally installed in the metro level foyer of the John Molson School of Business.

First collaboration with the Webster Library in the presentation of documents from the Halifax section of the *Traffic* exhibition.

The Gallery continues to develop a plan for the display of artworks from its collection in the Webster Library to be integrated in its new redesigned lobby area.

PUBLICATIONS

The Gallery this year launched two publications of note namely *Raymond Gervais 3 x 1* coproduced with VOX, centre de l'image contemporaine and *Actions that Speak / Actions parlantes* published on the occasion of the gallery presentation of *Traffic*. The first is the catalogue that accompanies the retrospective exhibition of Raymond Gervais and the second is a book featuring essays that contextualize the Montreal of the 1960s and 70s.

Two other publications announced last year were delayed because of production issues. *Interpellations. Three Essays on Kent Monkman* will come out shortly in July and *Hadjithomas and Joreige*, copublished with JRP | Ringier will now come out in the fall. Research has just begun on a major publication (launch date is winter/spring 2013) on the work of the Vienna / New York based artist Martin Beck. Martin Beck work of the last ten years will be the subject of an exhibition at the Gallery next fall.

RAYMOND GERVAIS 3 X 1

Edited by Nicole Gingras

Essays by Nicole Gingras and Raymond Gervais

Design: Dominique Mousseau

Coproduced with VOX, Contemporary Image Center

196 pp., colour illustrations, sewn layflat binding ISBN 978-2-920394-86-5

In English and French

ACTIONS THAT SPEAK / ACTIONS PARLANTES

Edited by Michèle Thériault

Essays by Sean Mills, Felicity Tayler, Michèle Thériault, Jean-Philippe Warren

Design: TagTeam Studio

Produced by the LBEAG

258 pp., paper, perfect binding ISBN 978-2-920394-89-6

In English and French

DISTRIBUTION

As mentioned in last year's report the gallery terminated its contract with ABCartbooks and signed a distribution agreement with **Edipresse** through RCAAQ (le Regroupement des centres d'artistes autogérés du Québec). This new arrangement is working out well for the gallery and if there are no increased sales through their service it is equal to before.

The new RCAAQ run contemporary art bookstore FORMATS has opened in the new 2-22 building and is featuring most of the gallery's publication.

PROMOTION + COMMUNICATIONS

- The gallery's Facebook page increased its "likes" by 147 % and tweets have increased by 220%.
- New downloadable app "Réseau Art Actuel" available listing all downtown contemporary art organizations.
- Continued listing of gallery events and exhibitions in Concordia's NOW and on the university's website.
- Improved reporting of gallery exhibitions by Communications Services
- Although *Galleries* are no longer listed as under Popular Links on the University's Web site its exhibitions often appear under FEATURES.
- Regular coverage in the local press and electronic medias. See accompanying compilation of *MEDIA REVIEWS / REVUE DE PRESSE*
- Inclusion of gallery announcements on the network of flat screens across the university campus.
- 7000 copies of the Gallery's seasonal program were distributed as an insert in the Alumni Journal (in September) and in the Link (in January).
- The section AUDIO / VIDEO was added this spring to our website. It features recordings of our lectures and talks.
- Participation at Orientation event and Open House.
- Production of a poster to announce each exhibition for placement in gallery vitrine at front entrance.
- Possibility of vitrine on de Maisonneuve Street.

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Plans are under way to develop a fundraising campaign to mark the gallery's 50th anniversary.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Gallery is continuing to upgrade its facilities and has obtained Capital/Special project funding to do so. The gallery's floor was refinished in the summer of 2011 and this summer all of the galleries walls will be stripped and refinished enabling more flexibility for installations.